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FINDINGS OF AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN TRAINING LETTER

Conference on Agricultural Services in Foreign Areas--February 7-10, 1955

With an assignment of assessing current issues of the Foreign Training Letter and providing guidance concerning content, publication periods, and related matters, the Committee came to the following conclusions:

1. That the Letter is not primarily an administrative instrument and that it should not be used for forwarding administrative announcements except as they need special emphasis or comments.
2. That the Letter should definitely stress more ideas and know-how on how to do a better training job. That one of these ideas might be suggestions on training materials which would be useful, such as available motion pictures for showing trainees, etc.
3. That the Letter should recap occasionally the overall objectives of technical cooperation and our agricultural training work on the premise that these objectives are easily lost in day-to-day activities.
4. That the Letter might summarize material from current special reports on technical assistance, especially such reports as might not be available to land-grant college people in full.
5. That the Letter might well include current criticisms of training programs in a constructive impersonal manner in addition to the more complimentary items being carried concerning foreign training now.
6. That the Foreign Training Letter might well contain more follow-up reports on agricultural trainees after they have returned to their home countries.
7. That the Letter might well contain some material concerning the activities of other agencies and institutions in the foreign training field, such as the current programs of such organizations as Rockefeller and Ford Foundations.
8. That the Letter might occasionally keep college people informed on the number of trainees overall which have currently arrived from overseas and also prospects for arrivals in coming months.
9. That the Letter might well refer college people to articles appearing in current nationally-circulated publications on technical assistance and related subjects.
10. That there is a need for land-grant college agricultural people to keep abreast of other foreign agricultural developments aside from training; that there is a gap in this flow of information but that it should not be included in the Foreign Training Letter.
11. That enclosures with the Letter might occasionally include a current list of FOA agricultural mission people and the list of agricultural attaches, now located in foreign countries, representing the U.S.
12. That pictures be used occasionally but that the best ones might be of foreign trainees at work after they have returned to their home countries.
13. That the Letter does not necessarily need to come out more often than once a month.



